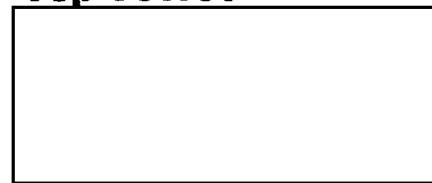


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Disarmament: [The Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee reconvening in Geneva today faces further difficult negotiations on a treaty to curb the spread of nuclear weapons.]

[Most delegations had expected that the US and USSR would jointly offer formulations of such a treaty at the opening session. The Soviet delegation advised the US late last week, however, that it was unwilling to do so until a complete text is ready, which can then be put to top officials in Moscow for approval. Since the US told the Soviet delegation that we are not yet prepared to submit language on the safeguards article, the resulting situation may encourage non-nuclear countries which have reservations about the treaty to continue concerting their views on the various objections that they would like the US and USSR to accommodate.]

[In West Germany, where public debate over the treaty has continued unabated, Chancellor Kiesinger and other political figures met with parliamentary leaders last Friday in an effort to damp down criticism. Although this was evidently only partially successful, the government is continuing its efforts.]

[In Italy, Foreign Minister Fanfani has told Ambassador Reinhardt that although the government still favors the treaty in principle, there is considerable concern among Italian officials from President Saragat and Premier Moro on down that unless Italy's objections to some provisions are taken into account, future governments will accuse them of selling out the country. Fanfani believes that it is of the utmost importance to avoid arousing a nationalistic reaction in non-nuclear states, including Italy. Some senior foreign office officials are reported to believe, however, that official opposition to treaty terms is being carried too far.]

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[In EURATOM, some commission officials as well as several permanent representatives of the member states continue to believe that acceptance of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections within EURATOM--as the treaty would require--would mean the demise of EURATOM's own safeguards systems and, perhaps, of EURATOM itself. Although consideration is still being given to the idea of acceptance of IAEA verification of the adequacy of EURATOM controls, it would probably take a long time to work out the necessary IAEA-EURATOM agreement, which even then might not be acceptable to the USSR.]

[At a meeting of EURATOM permanent representatives on 16 February, the French delegate reiterated that Paris had no intention of signing the nonproliferation treaty. Although the French delegate said each member should decide for itself, Paris would expect each to "weigh most carefully" the implications for the future of European unity and alluded to the treaty in terms implying it amounts to "another Yalta."]

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Syria-Iraq: [The Syrian regime is taking a more intransigent position toward settlement of its dispute with the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC) and soon may nationalize the pipeline, which it seized last December]

[Iraqi Prime Minister Talib's proposal to reopen the pipeline to oil owned by the Iraqi Government was rebuffed by the Syrians. They told Talib that their price for this would be Iraq's nationalization of its section of the pipeline. The Syrians also disclosed that a nationalization decree for the Syrian section of the line had been prepared for 20 February, but they agreed to postpone its execution for a week.]

[During the meeting the Syrians professed great eagerness to come to an agreement with the IPC, but on face-saving terms which would not repudiate any of the extreme public statements made by their spokesmen.]

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Chile: The Senate's decision to vote on President Frei's proposed constitutional revision within ten days will resurface parliamentary frictions.

The bill, submitted by Frei after the Senate vetoed his planned trip to the US, allows a president to dissolve congress and call new elections once within his term. The Senate's move came as a surprise, since Senate President Allende had ruled earlier that the proposal would be shelved until 4 April. The change was prompted by pressure from the executive branch, intense publicity, and legal opinions opposed to Allende's decision.

Nevertheless, the bill still faces rough going. The vote in the Senate is expected to be close. The US Embassy predicts that even if Frei is able to muster the required majority, the bill may be loaded with amendments which the lower house would reject, thus causing a long delay.

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Egypt - Saudi Arabia: [The Saudi Hawk missile equipment now being moved from Jidda to Jizan may soon be the target of an Egyptian air strike. The Egyptian commander in Yemen implied as much in telling a US official recently that the development of a Saudi surface-to-air missile capability along the border with Yemen would be regarded as an "offensive" move, since it would be aimed at neutralizing Egyptian air attacks prior to supporting a new royalist campaign within Yemen.]

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Congo (Kinshasa) - Belgium: The mining and marketing agreement signed on 17 February paves the way for an early resumption of copper exports. The new arrangements almost certainly will make mining less efficient and will reduce the Congolese Government's income. The country will still face a tight foreign exchange and supply situation over the next few months. President Mobutu has tried to minimize the internal repurcussions by touting the agreement as a political victory.

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Jamaica: The outcome of today's general elections is expected to be extremely close. Units of the Jamaican defense force have joined police in patrolling potential trouble spots in an effort to contain political violence. Opposition allegations of tampering with electoral lists and rigging voter registration have been given some credibility by the official report on the number of eligible voters, which is about 250,000 fewer than the 796,540 registered in 1962.

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